

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA  
MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT

**RAJYA SABHA**  
**UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 3196**  
TO BE ANSWERED ON 30.03.2022

**SHELTER HOMES FOR WIDOWS**

3196 SMT. AMBIKA SONI

Will the Minister of WOMEN CHILD AND DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government had set up a shelter home for widows at Vrindavan in Uttar Pradesh (UP) under Swadhar Greh Scheme, if so, the details thereof along with capacity of residents vis-a vis present occupancy in the shelter home;
- (b) the number of shelter homes constructed by Government for homeless women across the country, State-wise;
- (c) the reasons for very low occupancy in the shelter homes; and
- (d) the fresh steps taken by the Government to encourage more homeless widows to come and stay in such shelter homes?

**ANSWER**

MINISTER OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT  
(SHRIMATI SMRITI ZUBIN IRANI)

(a) The Ministry of Women and Child Development is implementing the Swadhar Greh Scheme revised with effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016. The Scheme caters to primary needs of women in difficult circumstances – women and girls rendered homeless due to family discord, crime, violence, mental stress, social ostracism or are being forced into prostitution and are in moral danger. Through the provisions of shelter, food, clothing, counseling, training, clinical and legal aid, the Scheme aims to rehabilitate such women in difficult circumstance economically and emotionally.

The Ministry has constructed Home for Widows, namely, 'Krishna Kutir' at Vrindavan, Mathura in Uttar Pradesh which can accommodate 1000 widows. The home is fully funded by the Ministry. It aims to provide the widows a safe and secure place of stay, health services, nutritious food, legal and counselling services. This Home was inaugurated on 31.08.2018 and it is the largest shelter home for widows in the country. The capacity of residents in 'Krishna Kutir' is 1000 and present occupancy is 140.

(b) Most of the Swadhar Grehs are running in the rented buildings. One Swadhar Greh in Madhya Pradesh and three, including one Krishna Kutir, have been constructed in Uttar Pradesh.

(c) and (d) Swadhar Grehs do not have low occupancy, which stands at 76.2% at all India level during 2021-22. Under the new Mission Shakti, it is envisaged to revise the Scheme guidelines to make them more useful for the beneficiaries and spread awareness about these homes through the National Hub for Empowerment of Women.

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